

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see Tuesday 30th June at 10:30pm

Planets (Jupiter, Venus, Saturn)

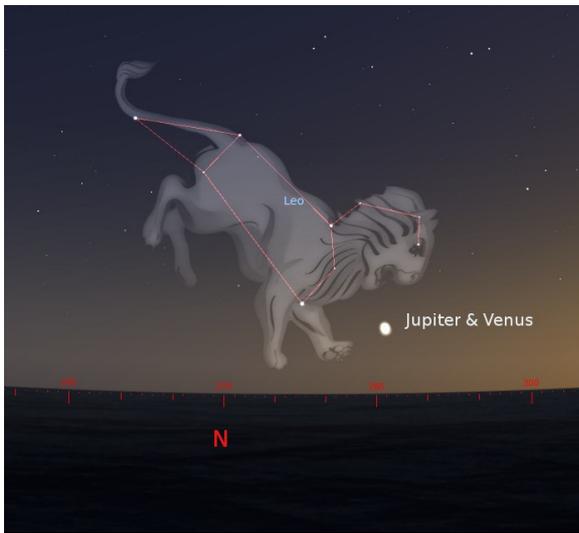
Moons (Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto)

Constellations (Leo the lion, Libra the scales)

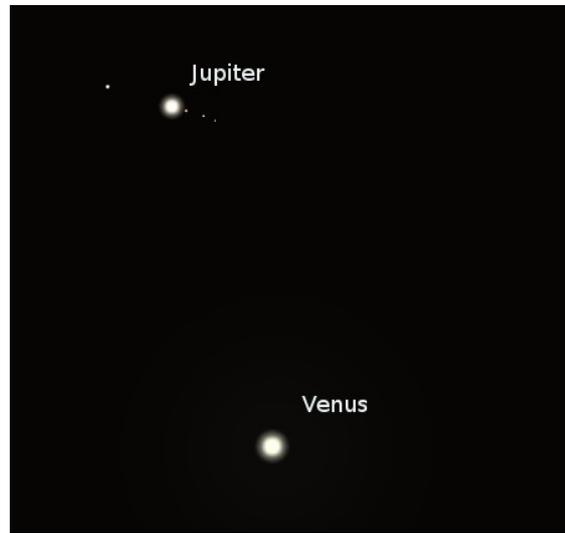
Jupiter and Venus on collision course in the sky

During this month both Jupiter and Venus appear to be on a collision course in the sky. They are of course not going to collide as they orbit the Sun on opposite sides of the Earth's orbit. Venus orbits the Sun at 108,200,000km and Jupiter at 778,500,000km, a gap of approximately 670,300,000km.

However when viewed from Earth during this month, they will appear to be on a collision course. They will reach their closest point on Tuesday 30th June. There will be less than 1° of difference!!!



Leo the Lion about to eat Jupiter and Venus



Close up of Jupiter (its moons) and Venus

At about 10:30pm look North at Azimuth 285° on your compass and just above the horizon at Altitude 6° and you will see Jupiter and Venus very close together. If you recognise the constellation Leo (the Lion) then you will find the planets just about to be eaten by Leo.

Through binoculars you will be able to see that there is space between the planets. If you can hold the binoculars very still or have a tripod you will be able to see the four Galilean moons of Jupiter. Ganymede will be on its own on one side of Jupiter and in a line on the other side will be Io, Europa and Callisto. These four moons will look like tiny little stars all in a row.

At about 10:30pm look South at Azimuth 185° on your compass and just above the horizon at Altitude 20° and you will see Saturn in the constellation Libra the scales.

If you have a small telescope and you see Saturn for the first time, I'm sure you'll find it a jaw dropping sight. Its rings are clearly visible and you may even see some of its many moons.

Contact us if you need help or more information.

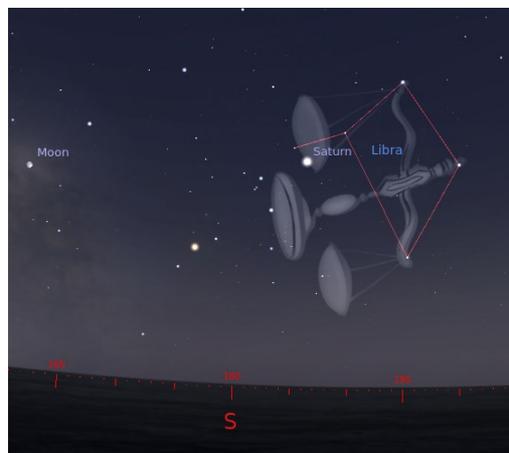
Website www.ThanetAstronomyGroup.com

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Or come and see us at our free informal public pop in meeting.

At the West Bay Cafe, Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea. CT8 8QA.

Saturdays 1-4pm.



Saturn in the constellation Libra